

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 SAJ-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7069

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CH

SUBJ: SOYBEANS AND OTHER OIL-BEARING CROPS

1. NOTHING YET REPORTED BY CHINESE PRESS ON SOYBEAN PRODUCTION IN 1976.

2. CHINESE PRESS REPORTS THAT (A) PRODUCTION OF OIL-BEARING CROPS SHOWED BIG INCREASE IN INNER MONGOLIA, (B) RAPESEED OUTPUT IN TIBET 7.8 PERCENT ABOUT LAST YEAR, (C) FURTHER GROWTH IN PRODUCTION OF RAPESEED IN HUNAN, (D) OUTPUT OF OIL-BEARING CROPS INCREASED IN HONAN, (E) INCREASE REGISTERED IN OUTPUT OF PEANUTS IN SHANTUNG, AND (J) FOR ALL CHINA, OUT PUT OF OIL-BEARING CROPS SHOWED REMARKABLE INCREASE IN LAST FIVE YEARS.

3. SOYBEAN PRODUCTION IN SHANTUNG, HONAN, ANHWER, KIANGSU, HOPEI AND HUPEI PROVINCES LIKELY NORMAL, AS GRAIN OUTPUT IN THESE PROVINCES REPORTED ABOVE LAST YEAR'S LEVEL.

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HOWEVER, SOYBEAN CROP WAS PROBABLY DAMAGED BY DROUGHT IN HEILUNGKIANG, KIRIN AND LIAONING PROVINCES. THUS WE SUSPECT THAT SOYBEAN PRODUCTION IN 1976 WAS BELOW THAT OF 1975.

4. THE JAPANESE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE IN PEKING WAS TOLD BY AN OFFICIAL OF CHINESE MINISTRY OF AGRICUL-

TURE THAT OF THE 274.9 MILLION TONS OF GRAIN PRODUCED IN 1974 ONLY ABOUT EIGHT MILLION TONS WERE SOYBEANS. IF THIS IS CORRECT, IT FOLLOWS THAT SOYBEAN PRODUCTION IN 1976 WAS PROBABLY ABOUT EIGHT MILLION TONS OR MAYBE LESS AND PRODUCTION IN 1975 NOT MUCH ABOVE EIGHT MILLION TONS.

5. AREA SEEDED TO SOYBEANS PROBABLY NOT MUCH CHANGED FROM LAST YEAR. USLO OFFICER WAS TOLD BY CHINESE IN HEILUNGKIANG IN JULY 1975 THAT SOYBEAN ACREAGE WAS BEING REDUCED DUE TO GREATER RELATIVE PRODUCTIVITY OF CORN. HOWEVER, ANOTHER USLO OFFICER WAS TOLD IN SUMMER 1976 IN KIRN THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO REDUCTION IN SOYBEAN ACREAGE IN NORTHEAST CHINA. THERE HAS DOUBTLESS BEEN SOME SMALL INCREASE IN ACREAGE IN SOME AREAS DUE TO INCREASED USE OF INTERCROPPING.

6. EXPORT AVAILABILITY OF SOYBEANS FROM THE 1976 CROP APPEARS QUITE LIMITED. MINISTRY OF TRADE OFFICIALS TOLD JAPANESE TRADERS THAT INCREASED DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION RATHER THAN DECREASED PRODUCTION CAUSED LOWER EXPORTS IN 1976. CHINA SHIPPED BETWEEN 150,000 AND 160,000 TONS OF SOYBEANS TO JAPAN IN CY1976 COMPARED WITH 245,000 TONS IN CY 1975 AND WILL APPARENTLY EXPORT LESS TO JAPAN IN 1977. OTHER USUAL CHINESE CUSTOMERS RECEIVED VERY SMALL QUANTITIES OR NONE AT ALL IN 1976.

GATES

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Message Attributes

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